



THE RED FLAG AND THE STARS AND STRIPES AT COOPER UNION.

Three Thousand Socialists in Mass Meeting—Authorized Speakers Define the Position of the Party on the Flag Question—The Work of the Chicago Convention Abridged and Enthusiastically Approved—Speeches by Shevitch, Seubert, Vogt and Reimer.

In answer to a call issued by the New York Sections for a mass-meeting, the Socialists of this city turned out in force at the Cooper Union last Monday night. At 8 p. m. all the seats were occupied and hundreds of belated persons had to stand in the aisles and rear of the great hall, while S. E. Shevitch was delivering his speech. Over 3,000 people were present, and while the repeated outbursts of enthusiasm recalled the best days of 1886, the utterances which were most applauded showed the progress of ideas since that time. The audience was divided about equally between the German and English-speaking elements.

There was in the hall a slight sprinkling of blue coats, from which emerged the rubicund faces of peaceful-looking policemen, who were apparently quite interested in the able presentation of socialism made by the speakers. They listened with particular attention to the explanation that was given of the meaning of the red flag, and when a reference was made to the scandalous fortunes amassed by police and other political magnates, they looked intently to the floor.

After a short address by Comrade August Delar, secretary of the National Bakers' Union, who acted as Chairman, S. E. Shevitch took the floor. In opening his remarks he said, in substance, that the willful misrepresentations of the press concerning the flag incident at the Chicago meeting, held under the auspices of the Socialist Labor Party, had made it advisable for the party to state in very plain language, and if possible, once for all, the position taken by socialists in relation to the "red flag" and the "stars and stripes." The stars and stripes represent the American Nation. The red flag represents Humanity. No socialist insults the American flag, for this would be an insult to the American people. The hissing at Chicago before the opening of the meeting, if actually intended for that flag, was certainly not the performance of socialists. There are in Chicago and elsewhere numbers of people, great haters of socialism, who daily insult the American flag. Take, for instance, the Chicago police. They insult the American flag without compunction. They insult it every day by the use they make of the police power. Bonfield's thugs have proved to be a gang of robbers and murderers. But there are other insulters of the American flag. The United States Senators and Congressmen, whose wealth can be traced to no other source than the selling of their votes to great corporations, do they not insult the American flag? The unfaithful legislators, the corrupt politicians, the "Silver-Dollar Smiths," do they not insult the American flag? The monopolists who buy the law, rob the people and starve the honest worker, do they not insult the American flag? These—not the poor industrious socialists—are the persons who disgrace and insult the American nation.

"But it is objected sometimes," continued the speaker, "that the red flag is dearer to the socialists than the stars and stripes." Aye, this is true. The American nation is only a part of mankind, and the symbol of one nation, ever so ennobled by the achievements of that nation in its struggle for liberty, cannot be so dear to us as the universal symbol of humanity. The red flag, to the color of which some ignorant persons object under the impression that it means bloodshed, is in fact the only emblem of universal peace and brotherhood. Its color symbolizes the human blood, one and the same under any skin, black, red, yellow or white. It has

been dyed in this blood by the oppressors of mankind throughout the world.

The speaker then reviewed the work of the convention at Chicago and read amid great applause the opening paragraphs of the platform. "These are," he said, "the principles upon which the Socialist Labor Party stands before the people of the United States. Are they un-American? Or are they the natural logical, inevitable sequence and complement of the principles proclaimed by the founders of the American Republic in their Declaration of Independence? Don't we see every day that political liberty is a sham under a system of economic slavery? Why do the people of this country, year after year, send to their legislative and executive bodies the same corrupt servants of their oppressors? Is it not because, under our economic system, they either become too ignorant to understand the cause of their misery, or are held in such bondage and surveillance by their employers that they must vote as they are told to do? Suppose, as Henry George would say, Robinson Crusoe and his man Friday on an island. Both agree that political liberty, free speech and all that shall forever remain unabridged; but Robinson Crusoe reserves to himself the ownership of the land and of every instrument of labor. Will not Friday be the slave of Crusoe in spite of his right to talk and to vote? In this illustration Robinson Crusoe symbolizes the few thousands who own all the land and instruments of labor in this vast country, and Friday personifies the millions of 'free citizens' who are held in the most abject economic dependence.

"If, after what I have said, there are some who still believe that the principles of Socialism are un-American, or can never take root in the American soil, let me read to them this document." Here the speaker read the declaration of principles of the Nationalist Clubs. "Is not this Socialism, pure and simple? And who are the men who speak so? Are they foreigners? No; they are Americans, whose fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers were Americans. The world is moving, and whether or not we live long enough to see it, the time must come when the economic fabric of America alone, but of the whole civilized world, will rest upon these great principles.

"Again," continued the speaker, "when we predict such a change, and when, taught by history, we predict furthermore, that it may not take place without a bloody revolution, it is stupidly by some and cunningly by others asserted that we are advocates of force and bloodshed. What would you think of a man who would hold the meteorologist of the Signal Service responsible for the storms which the latter predicts? 'There is,' says the poor scientist, 'a storm coming upon us with a velocity of eighty miles per hour. It will uproot trees, tear houses down, carry roofs away, etc. Beware!' 'Why,' exclaims the man, 'this meteorologist ought to be dragged down from his tall tower and quartered forthwith. Hanging is too good for him. He is preparing a storm that will blow my house down and bury me under its ruins.' You would, I trust, send such a man to the lunatic asylum.

"History," said the speaker in conclusion, "teaches us that no privileged class ever relinquished its privileges without fighting, even unto death, for their preservation. Every conquest of liberty has been marked by bloodshed. This Republic has been no exception to the rule, and the most glorious pages of its history are red with the blood of those who fought a century ago for its independence, and of those who later fought for the abolition of chattel slavery. But while we Socialists do not deduce ourselves into the belief that wage-slavery will be abolished without a great struggle, we do not advocate force; we commend economic organization and independent political action of the wage-workers as a class. Let the workingmen unite, and the day will soon come when both the red flag and the stars and stripes—the flag of the nation and the flag of humanity—will wave upon the homes of a regenerated and happy people."

Comrades Seubert and Reimer spoke in German. They gave a comprehensive account of the work of the Chicago convention, and took the same ground as Shevitch had taken in relation to the flag question. Their remarks were frequently received with the most enthusiastic applause.

Hugo Vogt read the platform, and in a few words commented upon the action of the capitalist press. He predicted that the speeches made at this meeting, if reported at all, would be distorted into the wildest and most improbable utterances. He challenged the newspapers to publish the platform, and again predicted that they would not dare to do so. Every one of his predictions proved true to a dot.

ORGANIZED LABOR.

WEEKLY MEETINGS OF THE CENTRAL BODIES.

A Cunning Attempt to Capture the Labor Vote Duly Frustrated. Samuel Gompers Declines to be a Senator—He Asks and Receives the Advice of Organized Labor. No More Street Bands—General News.

Last Sunday's meeting of the CENTRAL LABOR FEDERATION.

was of great importance for the entire labor movement in this country. The proceedings were highly interesting. A delegate of Millers and Millwrights' Union No. 2 presided. There was a very large attendance of delegates. An invitation sent by the Rheinpfalzener Männerchor to its coming entertainment will be accepted if it be shown that only union help is employed, and union beer and cigars be sold on that occasion.

It was then announced that Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, was present for the purpose of asking the advice of the delegates in an eminently important matter. Mr. Gompers was granted the floor, and he said that what he had to lay before the body might be of great importance not only for the workmen of New York, but of the whole country. He then continued, to state that a political nomination had been tendered him by the United Republicans and County Democrats. He laughed at the idea when the rumor of the contemplated nomination first reached him; but when he was really approached by some politicians he declined to definitely accept, as he desired to consult some friends. He was advised by them not to accept the nomination until he had obtained the opinion of the labor organization of New York. He had been asked what he would do in case he were elected, and his answer had been that he would go to the Senate as a free man, absolutely untrammelled by promises made to any set of politicians; he would pledge himself to nothing but the well known demands of labor. At all events he would only accept if the Central Labor Federation and the Central Labor Union told him to do so. He concluded, saying: "I am not going to make an attempt to influence your decision; you are to decide as you deem fit in the interest of the labor movement. I shall abide by your decision." Mr. Gompers' remarks were warmly applauded.

A lengthy discussion followed. One of the delegates attempted to "puff" the candidacy of one Roesch, the candidate of rotten Tammany in Mr. Gompers' district, but the attempt was nipped in the bud by the chairman. Another speaker declared that the constitution of the Central Labor Federation could not be violated by endorsing the nominations made by any of the old political parties, and, before everything else, "We cannot afford to lose Sam. Gompers just yet!" A third speaker was in favor of leaving Mr. Gompers to decide for himself, while a fourth speaker said: "The president of the American Federation of Labor comes to this body, which is part of the organization he represents, to ask for our opinion. According to my idea our answer ought to be: 'Touch not pitch, lest you be defiled.' From the individual standpoint we ought to thank Mr. Gompers for his sincerity, and we should answer him frankly and honestly. What could he do for us if he were elected? The same parties who have nominated him are the ones who to-day oppress labor. The Senate is but a chamber of prostitution, not to be touched by workmen unless elected upon the labor ticket for the direct purpose of putting an end to such prostitution. Let us tell Mr. Gompers that, if he desires to do his duty, and all other workmen of this city do theirs, New York will soon become the center of a great American Labor Party. The Republicans and Democrats have delivered this country into the clutches of the monopolists, and for this reason there can come no salvation to labor from that side."

Several other delegates followed in the same strain; and only two spoke in favor of Mr. Gompers accepting the nomination, their argument being that this would be a good opportunity of electing a representative of Organized Labor to the State legislature, a feat several times attempted upon a labor platform, but always unsuccessfully. Mr. Gompers then formulated his question thus: "Does the Federation advise Samuel Gompers to accept or decline the nomination offered him?" The vote stood as follows: 40 against and 8 in favor of accepting; part of the delegates refrained from voting. When Mr. Gompers said, "I thank you for your advice, and I shall, of course, submit to the decision of organized labor," he was again loudly applauded.

The rules were then suspended to

give the Harmonizing Committee an opportunity of making its report. The committee stated that no final report could as yet be made, as the financial and political questions are still to be settled with the C. L. U. Debate was had, some of the delegates urging immediate action, while others were in favor of delay; one even spoke unreservedly against amalgamation with the C. L. U., but his remarks seemed to find little favor with the delegates. The matter was then dropped for the present.

The Committee on Organization reported that there was a good prospect of uniting the Bakers and Confectioners' Unions of New York City under the jurisdiction of the Journeymen Bakers' National Union.

The Boycott Committee reported favorable progress of the special boycott against pool brewer Kunz, and that Kunz would probably soon make his peace with the Journeymen Brewers' Union.

The secretary was instructed to ask the Fresco Painters' Union whether union beer is sold at their place of meeting, the New York Maennerchor Hall; and in regard to Beethoven Hall, Confectioners' Union No. 64 reported that they will withdraw from the place unless bona fide union waiters are employed by the proprietor.

CENTRAL LABOR UNION.

Plenty of rain and muddy streets were the reasons why the last Sunday meeting of the Central Labor Union was so poorly attended. Delegate Jas. P. Archibald, of the Paperhangers, occupied the chair and hurried the proceedings in a determined manner. The consequence was that the meeting adjourned before five o'clock had arrived. George Cavanagh, of the Amalgamated Carpenters, was elected vice-chairman, but was given no opportunity to act.

A communication from the Central Labor Federation in reference to the World Boycott was read, stating that scabs were employed in the press room of that capitalist sheet, and that Manager Turner had broken his promise to the various committees that visited him about employing union men, and requesting that the body take action in the matter. The communication was placed on file and the secretary instructed to notify the C. L. F. that action in this matter had been laid over for three weeks, till Turner's return from abroad, as he promised to fulfill his promise immediately upon his return.

From the Magnolia Association and the Teutonia Labor Club it was reported that one Fould and five other members of the Urania Labor Club were still at work at the Atlanta Casino. The secretary was given order to notify the C. L. F. of this fact.

Cigarmakers' Progressive Assembly donated \$5.00 to the striking trunk-makers and a like sum to the C. L. U. to help defray the expenses of the Labor Day parade.

The Hexagon Labor Club protested against the reception of the Progressive Tailayers of the C. L. F. with the amalgamated body, as they were not a bona fide labor organization. It was decided to send this protest before the Committee on Harmony.

The Foundrymen's Association was in favor of changing the date of meeting from Sunday to some week night, but the Cigarmakers' Progressive Assembly and the Hexagon Labor Club were not.

An apology from the Housemiths' Union in regard to an insult offered to a delegate of the Central Body at their meeting was accepted.

In answer to a question of information, the members of the committee on harmony or amalgamation stated that a final report of the committee would be handed in in three weeks. They requested that the books of the C. L. U. be audited, and a statement of the financial standing of the body be given into their hands, in order to settle the financial matters of the two central bodies prior to their amalgamation. This request was granted and the officers of the body so instructed.

The miscellaneous trades section had sent the following resolution, with a request to adopt it:

Resolved, That the Central Labor Union do hereby protest against the public nuisance of street bands; and be it further

Resolved, That the Central Labor Union demand of the Board of Aldermen to pass upon the Mayor's ordinance against this obnoxious street nuisance.

Delegate Matthew Barr of the Tin and Sheet-Iron Workers was of the opinion that the time of the Central Labor Union was too valuable to be frittered away with such insignificant measures. Anyhow, it seemed as if the musical unions wanted to monopolize all the music in the city. He had heard as many arguments in favor of not abolishing the street bands as to the contrary. Delegate Thomas Doyle, of the Cigarmakers' Progressive Assembly, took up the cause of the musical union, and said they wanted the street music, as to be abolished, because they scabbed on organized musicians. The

resolution was carried with a great majority.

Recording Secretary Matthew Barr handed in his resignation as secretary on account of pressing business. The resignation was accepted, and it was resolved to elect his successor at the next meeting.

CURRENT EVENTS.

Life in the Nineteenth Century—Themes for the Social Reformer.

Murder, robbery, suicide, failure, swindling, incendiarism, elopement, divorce, cruelty to children, destitution and other features of social life under Capitalism are supplying this week the usual number of headlines to our sensational press. We submit a few of the most noteworthy occurrences:

A golden and curly-haired pretty woman of 26 years, named Anna Meusen, bearing a four-weeks-old baby boy in her arms, came into the Fifth Street Station-House in the middle of the night and requested shelter. There she told a pitiful story of love, betrayal and expulsion. Mr. Gerry's society was notified. The Commissioners of Emigration, under whose care she is still, with the aid of the society officers, will endeavor to find Anna's former friend and make him do her justice.

Charles Meyer, of Oakdale, Long Island, is confined to his home by injuries received from one of the bull-dogs on William K. Vanderbilt's country estate. Some of the people living in the neighborhood say that Mr. Vanderbilt's dogs are in the habit of attacking people passing along the road. The dog has not yet been killed.

Attention has at last been called by the press to the violation by policemen of the regulations which require them to carry their clubs in their belts or pockets instead of in their hands. The club is given the policeman merely for his own defense, and he must not use it for any other purpose.

Miss Clara Huntington, daughter of the American railroad king, was married this week in London to Prince Hatzfeldt, a dissipated scion of the European nobility. Ten million dollars was the price she paid for the right to embroider a coronet on her handkerchief. The newspapers are mistaken in adding that she abjured her religion in order to become a princess. The God of such a woman is the mighty dollar.

Reports of a terrible drought in some counties of Minnesota are pouring in. On the other hand it appears that the recent appeal through the public press for alleged sufferers from drought in Dakota is unwarranted by the facts. A fair crop was harvested in the localities where destitution is alleged to exist.

In a low tenement house, known as "The Morgue," a drunken woman last Sunday became infuriated because her little daughter, 12 years old, refused to get a pint of beer. She threw her down, bit her arms and legs like a mad dog, slammed her head repeatedly on the floor, then lifted her by the hair and cast her into the street. The poor girl, with four other children younger than herself, was placed in the care of Gerry's Society.

Herman O. Pollanz, a cigar packer, has gained a judgment in the City Court for \$525 against George Barnstoff, a policeman. Pollanz was standing in front of the cigar factory on 2d avenue where he worked during the last car drivers' strike, and he was ordered to move on by Barnstoff. He did not at once obey, and the policeman struck him with his fist, knocking a tooth out. Barnstoff claimed that he took Pollanz for a striker. He let one judgment be taken against him by default. It was for \$100 and was given by a sheriff's jury. Barnstoff was not satisfied with it, and moved to have the default opened and the case tried in the City Court.

While the Cincinnati people are enjoying a reduction of the price of beer to three cents a glass, the Central Liquor Dealers' Association of New York is making an effort to raise it to ten cents a pint.

William Matsen is a seaman attached to the Boston ship Landseer. He was charged with making a deadly assault upon one of the officers of the vessel on a voyage from the Philippine Islands, and was arraigned before United States Commissioner Shields last Monday. The complainant in the case was the first officer, George A. Shipp. The officer was willing to withdraw the charge of mutiny if the sailor would not prosecute for ill-treatment. Matsen took the proposal under advisement. He claimed to have drawn a knife only to save his life when he was being beaten with belaying pins.

A man who was caught stealing bread in a small cake bakery at Patterson, N. J., darted off to the river, jumped in and was drowned in sight of his captor.

OFFICIAL NOTICE.

SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY.

GENERAL VOTE.

To All Sections of the S. L. P.:

COMRADES—The platform, constitution and resolutions adopted by the party convention held in Chicago from the 12th to the 16th of October, are herewith submitted to you for your general vote.

We ask for a prompt and detailed report of the result.

The exact number of votes cast for and against each proposition must be reported. The reports must be in our hands within four weeks of this date.

NEW YORK, Oct. 28, 1889.

THE NAT. EX. COM., S. L. P.,
B. J. GRECH, Sec'y,
25 East Fourth street, N. Y.

TAKE NOTICE!

The following nine points are to be voted on: 1. The new platform; 2. the new constitution—all the amendments; 3-8. the resolutions; 9. seat of the National Executive Committee and Board of Grievances. Any unfavorable votes on particular amendments to the constitution must be separately reported.

I.

PLATFORM.

The Socialist Labor Party of the United States, in convention assembled, reasserts the inalienable right of all men to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

With the founders of the American republic we hold that the purpose of government is to secure every citizen in the enjoyment of this right; but in the light of our social conditions we hold, furthermore, that no such right can be exercised under a system of economic inequality, essentially destructive of life, of liberty, and of happiness.

With the founders of this republic we hold that the true theory of politics is that the machinery of government must be owned and controlled by the whole people; but in the light of our industrial development we hold, furthermore, that the true theory of economics is that the machinery of production must likewise belong to the people in common.

To the obvious fact that our despotic system of economics is the direct opposite of our democratic system of politics, can plainly be traced the existence of a privileged class, the corruption of government by that class, the alienation of public property, public franchises and public functions to that class, and the abject dependence of the mightiest of nations upon that class.

Again, through the perversion of democracy to the ends of plutocracy, labor is robbed of the wealth which it alone produces, is denied the means of self-employment, and, by compulsory idleness in wage-slavery, is even deprived of the necessities of life.

Human power and natural forces are thus wasted, that the plutocracy may rule.

Ignorance and misery with all their concomitant evils are perpetuated, that the people may be kept in bondage.

Science and invention are diverted from their humane purpose to the enslavement of women and children.

Against such a system the S. L. P. once more enters its protest. Once more it reiterates its fundamental declaration that private property in the natural sources of production and in the instruments of labor is the obvious cause of all economic servitude and political dependence; and

Whereas, the time is fast coming when, in the natural course of social evolution, this system, through the destructive action of its failures and crises on the one hand, and the constructive tendencies of its trusts and other capitalistic combinations on the other hand, shall have worked out its own downfall; therefore, be it

Resolved, that we call upon the people to organize with a view to the substitution of the co-operative commonwealth for the present state of planless production, industrial war and social disorder; a commonwealth in which every worker shall have the free exercise and full benefit of his faculties, multiplied by all the modern factors of civilization.

We call upon them to unite with us in a mighty effort to gain by all practicable means the political power.

In the meantime, and with a view to immediate improvement in the condition of labor, we present the following "Demands":

SOCIAL DEMANDS.

1. Reduction of the hours of labor in proportion to the progress of production.

(Continued on third page.)